

Grants were made to the Committee on Anthropometric Measurements; to the Committee on the Quantitative Study of Biological Variation; to the Committee on the Study of Blind Vertebrates; and to the Committee on Study of the Relation of Plants to Climate. The last two committees were established at this meeting. The one on Blind Vertebrates consists of Mr. Theodore N. Gill (chairman), Messrs. A. S. Packard, C. O. Whitman, S. H. Gage, H. C. Bumpus and C. H. Eigenmann. The one on Relation of Plants to Climate consists of Messrs. Wm. Trelease, D. T. MacDougall and J. M. Coulter.

Resolutions were adopted urging upon the Government of the United States (1) the establishment of a bureau of standards in connection with the U.S. Office of Standard Weights and Measures; (2) the establishment of a Government Reservation in the Primeval Redwood Forest, situated in the Santa Cruz Mountains in California; and (3) the establishment of a Government Reservation in some portion of the hard wood forests of the Southern Appalachian region.

At the meeting of the General Committee held on the evening of the June 28, the city of Denver, Colorado, was chosen as the place for the next meeting, and the time selected was the week ending August 31. The choice of Pittsburg, Pa., as a meeting place in 1902 was recommended by formal resolution.

On the same evening the following officers for the ensuing year were elected:—For President, Prof. Charles Sedgwick Minot, of the Harvard Medical School; for Vice-Presidents, as follows:—Section A, Mathematics and Astronomy, Prof. James MacMahon, of Cornell University; Section B, Physics, Prof. D. T. Brace, of the University of Nebraska; Section C, Chemistry, Prof. John H. Long, of the North-western University; Section D, Mechanical Science and Engineering, Prof. H. S. Jacoby, of Cornell University; Section E, Geology and Geography, Prof. C. R. Van Hise, of the University of Wisconsin; Section F, Zoology, Prof. D. S. Jordan, of Stanford University; Section G, Botany, Mr. B. T. Galloway, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture; Section H, Anthropology, Mr. J. Walter Fewkes, of the Bureau of American Ethnology; Section I, Social and Economic Science, Mr. John Hyde, Statistician, U.S. Department of Agriculture. General Secretary, Prof. Wm. Hallock, Columbia University; Secretary to the Council, Dr. D. T. MacDougall, New York Botanical Gardens.

#### THE WELLCOME RESEARCH LABORATORIES.

IT is a remarkable sign of the times when the head of a firm principally distinguished for the introduction into this country of American methods of dealing with drugs, *i.e.* by putting them up in new and convenient shapes and doses, goes out of his way to fit up extensive research laboratories. This is what Mr. Wellcome has done. In 1896 laboratories were established in the business premises of the firm in Snow Hill. Now, after four years, during which the work continued to grow, it has been found necessary to give a complete house to the department. A well-built modern house has been secured at No. 6 King Street, Snow Hill, and has been converted into a series of three commodious and well-fitted laboratories, a library and office, and a store-room and workshop-laboratory. Each laboratory is self-contained, and each is connected with the other and with the directors' office by means of telephones. The basement contains a good-sized electric motor, and a dark room for polarimetric and photographic work. Use has been made of the electric mains to heat radiators for the distillation of ether, benzene and other inflammable liquids. The whole is under the direction of Dr. T. B. Power, F.I.C., who has a staff

of four assistants, all men who have been carefully selected for their attainments and skill in actual research.

Mr. Wellcome is to be congratulated on his enterprise. His firm, considering the nature of their business, might well have acted on the supposition that research was not strictly within their province. They might have argued, "Research is the business of the drug manufacturer and the manufacturing chemist; it does not concern the compounder of medicines." Their success in former years is a solid argument in favour of such a view, which can be very easily strengthened by a consideration of the success of many firms who have pursued an exactly similar line of business.

Mr. Wellcome intends to carry on his laboratories in no narrow spirit; this means, I presume, that he has other views than the conversion of his business into a chemical manufacturing concern. Though much work is done towards the perfection of the firm's preparations, time has been found for several researches which have been published, and other work of this kind is in hand. At present the bulk of the work is carried out on the natural drugs, very little having been undertaken in the direction of investigations leading to the discovery or further knowledge of the properties of artificial medicinal substances. There is undoubtedly a vast field in the direction so far pursued, but every one must hope that the other will not be neglected, and that at length this country may make a contribution to the number of substances of medicinal value derived directly and not through the medium of plant or other life from the carbon compounds of the aromatic series.

The laboratories were informally opened on June 18, when at Mr. Wellcome's invitation a number of gentlemen interested in science, together with some representatives of the Press, were received by Dr. Power and conducted over the building. All interested in the advance of chemistry, whether pure or applied, will wish Mr. Wellcome success, and also that he may find imitators among the numbers of firms who are meditating an advance in the direction of a more scientific method of conducting their manufactures. R. J. FRISWELL.

#### NOTES.

IN the House of Commons on Tuesday, Mr. Goschen announced that a committee of experts would be appointed to inquire into the efficiency of water-tube boilers in actual operation in different types of ships of H.M. Navy.

THE Additional Estimate for the Navy for the year 1900-1901 includes 9500*l.* for wireless telegraphy apparatus; 3600*l.* for telescopic sights for quick-firing guns; and 16,500*l.* for gyroscopes for Whitehead torpedoes.

THE scientific congresses to be opened in connection with the Paris Exposition during the present month are:—July 19-25, applied mechanics; July 23-28, applied chemistry; July 19-21, naval architecture and construction; July 28-August 3, navigation; July 28-August 4, chronometry; July 23-28, photography; July 18-21, homœopathy; July 23-28, professional medicine; July 27-29, medical press; July 27-August 1, electrology and medical radiology.

WE have been notified that the title of the subject for discussion at the joint meetings of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to be held in the American Pavilion in the Paris Exhibition on the morning of Thursday, August 16, is "The relative advantages of alternate and continuous current for a general supply of electricity, especially with regard to interference with other interests." We understand it is specially desired to discuss how